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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/678,893	10/04/2000	ATSUSHI KAKIMOTO	35.C14845	7041
5514	7590	05/15/2006	EXAMINER	
FITZPATRICK CELLA HARPER & SCINTO 30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA NEW YORK, NY 10112			JACOBS, LASHONDA T	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
		2157		

DATE MAILED: 05/15/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/678,893	KAKIMOTO, ATSUSHI	
Examiner	Art Unit		
LaShonda T. Jacobs	2157		

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 March 2006.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-4,7,9-12,15,17-20,23 and 25-36 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-4,7,9-12,15,17-20,23 and 25-36 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

This is a Final Office Action in response to Applicant's Amendment/Request for Reconsideration filed on March 6, 2006. Claims 1, 9, 17, 25, 27 and 29 have been amended. Applicant newly adds claims 31-36. Claims 1-4, 7, 9-12, 15, 17-20, 23 and 25-36 are present for further examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

2. Claims 1-4, 7, 9-12, 15, 17-20, 23 and 25-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. Applicant's specification does not show support for a selection means for selecting a group comprising a plurality of devices including the first shared device and a second shared device managed by another information processing apparatus.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claims **1, 9, 17, 25, 27, 29** and **31-36** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicant has used a contradictory statement “and/or”. Examiner will use the “or” statement.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims **1-4, 7, 9-12, 15, 17-20, 23** and **25-36** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Urevig et al (hereinafter, “Urevig”, U.S. Pat. No. 6,154,787) in view of Jaffe (U.S. Pat. No. 6,466,973).

As per claims **1, 9** and **17**, Urevig discloses information processing apparatus comprising:

- management means for managing the information of a first shared device managed by said information processing apparatus (col. 5, lines 14-25 and col. 6, lines 26-44);
- reception means for receiving, information of the second shared device included in the group selected by said selection means the other information processing apparatus, the received information including information of in the second shared device comprising an updated status and a connected condition (col. 5, lines 61-65 and col. 6, lines 26-44);

- recognition means for recognizing whether at least one of the first and second shared devices has been updated regarding its status, in accordance with the information received by said reception means (col. 6, lines 26-44 and col. 9, lines 32-41);
- renewal means for updating the information on a status and/or connected condition of the second shared used in accordance with a recognition result made by said recognition means (col. 6, lines 26-44 and lines 53-59); and
- display means for displaying the information on the status and/or the connected condition of the second shared device updated by said renewal means and the information of the first shared device managed by said management means on a same screen of said display means (col. 5, lines 61-65 and col. 6, lines 39-44).

However, Urevig does not explicitly disclose:

- selection means for selecting a group comprising a plurality of devices including the first shared device and a second shared device managed by another information processing apparatus.

Jaffe a method and system for managing storage devices over a network comprising:

- selection means for selecting a group comprising a plurality of devices including the first shared device and a second shared device managed by another information processing apparatus (col. 6, lines 62-67, col. 7, lines 1-11 and col. 9, lines 16-45).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Urevig by incorporating a management object interface to manage and monitor shared devices on network thereby providing communication and display information of the devices in a timely and efficient manner.

As per claims **2, 10 and 18**, Urevig discloses:

- wherein said reception means includes first reception control means for designating a group satisfying a predetermined condition and receiving the information of the shared device included in the group (col. 6, lines 26-44 and col. 9, lines 32-41).

As per claims **3, 11 and 19**, Urevig discloses:

- wherein said reception means includes second reception control means for detecting a log-on operation of another information processing apparatus to the network system and receiving the information of the shared devices managed by the other information processing apparatus (col. 9, lines 32-41).

As per claims **4, 12 and 20**, Urevig discloses:

- wherein said reception means is adapted, at a log-on operation to the network system, to automatically receive the information of the plurality of shared devices present on the network system (col. 9, lines 32-41).

As per claims **7, 15 and 23**, Urevig discloses:

- wherein said renewal means is adapted, in response to the detection of a log-off operation of another information processing apparatus from the network system, to invalidate the information of the shared devices managed by the other information processing apparatus (col. 9, lines 32-41).

As per claims **25, 27 and 29**, Urevig discloses information processing apparatus comprising:

- management means for managing information of a first shared device managed by said information processing apparatus (col. 6, lines 26-34);

- obtaining means for obtaining information, information on a status or connected condition of the second shared device included in the group selected by said selection means from the other information processing apparatus (col. 5, lines 61-65 and col. 6, lines 26-44);
- recognition means for recognizing whether at least one of the first and second shared device has been updated regarding its status and/or connected condition, in accordance with the information obtained by said obtaining means (col. 5, lines 61-65 and col. 6, lines 39-44); and
- display means for displaying, on a display of said information processing apparatus, the information on the and/or status or the connected condition of the second shared device, and information on a and/or status or a connected condition of the first shared device in accordance with the information managed by said management means (col. 5, lines 61-65 and col. 6, lines 39-44).

However, Urevig does not explicitly disclose:

- selection means for selecting a group comprising a plurality of devices including the first shared device and a second shared device managed by another information processing apparatus.

Jaffe a method and system for managing storage devices over a network comprising:

- selection means for selecting a group comprising a plurality of devices including the first shared device and a second shared device managed by another information processing apparatus (col. 6, lines 62-67, col. 7, lines 1-11 and col. 9, lines 16-45).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Urevig by incorporating a management object interface to manage and monitor shared devices on network thereby providing communication and display information of the devices in a timely and efficient manner.

As per claims 26, 28 and 30, Urevig discloses:

- wherein said display means displays on the display of the information processing apparatus information on the status or the connected condition by icon changes (col. 5, lines 66-67 and col. 6, lines 1-9).

As per claims 31, 33 and 35, Urevig discloses an information processing apparatus that manages a first device, comprising:

- obtaining means for obtaining first device information on the first device from the first device, and second device information on the second device information on the second device included in the group designated by said designation means from the other information processing apparatus (col. 5, lines 61-65 and col. 6, lines 26-44); and
- display means for displaying a status and/or a connected condition of the first and second devices based on the first device information and the second device information obtained by said obtaining means (col. 5, lines 61-65 and col. 6, lines 39-44).

However, Urevig does not explicitly disclose:

- designation means for designating a group comprising a plurality of devices including the first device and a second device managed by another information processing apparatus.

Jaffe a method and system for managing storage devices over a network comprising:

- designation means for designating a group comprising a plurality of devices including the first device and a second device managed by another information processing apparatus (col. 6, lines 62-67, col. 7, lines 1-11 and col. 9, lines 16-45).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Urevig by incorporating a management object interface to manage and monitor shared devices on network thereby providing communication and display information of the devices in a timely and efficient manner.

As per claims 32, 34 and 36, Urevig further discloses:

- storage means for storing the first and second device information obtained by said obtaining means in correspondence with an attribute of the group designated by said designation means (col. 5, lines 61-65 and col. 6, lines 26-44); and
- wherein said display means displays the status and/or the connected condition of the first and second devices based on the first device information and the second device information specified by said specifying means (col. 5, lines 61-65 and col. 6, lines 39-44).

However, Urevig does not explicitly disclose:

- specifying means for, when said designation means designates the group, specifying the first and second device information corresponding to the attribute of the designated group from among a plurality of pieces of device information stored in said storage means.

Jaffe a method and system for managing storage devices over a network comprising:

- specifying means for, when said designation means designates the group, specifying the first and second device information corresponding to the attribute of the designated group from among a plurality of pieces of device information stored in said storage means (col. 6, lines 62-67, col. 7, lines 1-11 and col. 9, lines 16-45).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Urevig by incorporating a management object interface to manage and monitor shared devices on network thereby providing communication and display information of the devices in a timely and efficient manner.

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims **1-4, 7, 9-12, 15, 17-20, 23 and 25-36** have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

8. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37

CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to LaShonda T. Jacobs whose telephone number is 571-272-4004. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 A.M.-5:00 P.M..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ario Etienne can be reached on 571-272-4001. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

LaShonda T Jacobs
Examiner
Art Unit 2157

ltj
May 8, 2006


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